

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 60-88 are pending. Claims 60-69, 75, 77-86, and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 70, 76, and 87 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 71-74 are objected to. Claims 1-14 are allowed. Claim 60 is currently amended to more specifically define the present invention.

In an Office Action dated May 5, 2005, Examiner offered a new rejection of independent claims 60 and 78 under U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of Whinnett et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,317,411). Applicants requested a telephonic interview with Examiner Meek on June 27, 2005 to clarify the rejection. At Examiner Meek's request, applicants faxed the attached list of Interview Issues to be discussed on June 30, 2005. The following is a summary of answers to issues 1 and 8 as repeated below.

1. Referring to Figure 3 of Whinnett et al., what are the first and second groups of signals recited in claim 60?

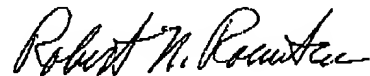
Independent claim 60, as amended, recites "A circuit, comprising: an input terminal coupled to receive a first and a second group of signals, each group having a respective sequence of different signals." In the Office Action dated May 5, 2005, Examiner Meek indicated signals S_1S_2 satisfied this limitation but failed to state whether S_1S_2 was the first group of signals, the second group of signals, or both. During the interview, both Examiner Meek and SPE Patel agreed that S_1 was the first group and S_2 was the second group. They could not explain, however, how either signal S_1 or S_2 could be plural signals with a respective sequence as required by claims 60-77. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 60-77 are patentable under U.S.C. § 102(c) over Whinnett et al.

8. Claim 78 requires "modulating the first group and the transformed second group each of the respective plurality of signals by a respective code corresponding to said each of a plurality of encoder circuits." Where is this disclosed by Whinnett et al.?

In the Office Action dated May 5, 2005, Examiner Meek stated "claims 78-84, the steps claimed as method are nothing more than a restatement of the function of the apparatus of claims 60-67." During the interview, Examiner Meek was unable to support this position and referred to Figure 12 of Whinnett et al. However, Examiner Meek was unable to find "a respective code corresponding to said each of a plurality of encoder circuits" as required by claims 78-88. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claims 78-84 are patentable under U.S.C. § 102(e) over Whinnett et al.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 60-88. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert N. Rountree
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 39,347

Robert N. Rountree, LLC
70360 Highway 69
Cotopaxi, CO 81223
Phone/Fax: (719) 783-0990